

Message Text

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14
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 081608Z NOV 76
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8654
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, EG
SUBJ: IMPENDING CABINET CHANGE

1. LOCAL PRESS NOV. 8 ANNOUNCES "FULL SCALE CHANGE" IN
ECONOMIC SECTOR MINISTRIES IN NEW SALIM CABINET, TO BE
ANNOUNCED LATER IN DAY AFTER CONSULATATIONS WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT AND APPROVAL BY POLITBURO OF ASU CENTER ORGANIZATION.
DAILIES REPORT NOMINATION OF THREE NEW ECONOMIC MINISTERS
AND NEW MINISTERS OF WAQFS. NEW MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
REPORTEDLY TO BE CREATED. MINHOUSING AND RECONSTRUCTION
OSMAN REPORTEDLY WILL NOT JOIN NEW CABINET" FOR REASONS
OF HEALTH."

2. DEPPRIMIN FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: BIGGEST SURPRISE AMONG
NEW NOMINEES IS REPORTED CHOICES OF ADB AL-MUN'IM AL-QAYSUNI
AS DEPPRIMIN FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, POST WHICH REMAINED
VACANT IN OUTGOING CABINET AFTER POSITION TURNED DOWN
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BY CURRENT ASU SEC GEN MUSTAFA KHALIL. QAYSUNI
APPARENTLY WILL OVERSEE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, ECONOMY

AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FINANCE, AND TRADE AND SUPPLY, BUT WILL NOT HOLD PORTFOLIO HIMSELF. QAYSUNI FORMERLY UAR MINISTER OF ECONOMY IN 1958, MINISTER OF TREASURY AND PLANNING (1962), DEPRIMIN FOR ECON AND FINANCE AFFAIRS (1964-1966), MINPLANNING (1967), PRESIDENT OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (1970), CHAIRMAN OF ARAB INTERNATIONAL BANK-FORMERLY EGYPTIAN INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE (1971), AND CHAIRMAN OF ARAB-EUROPEAN BANK (1972). QAYSUNI HAS REPORTEDLY INSISTED THAT HE RETAIN CHAIRMANSHIP OF LAST TWO ABOVE BANKS.

3. MINISTER OF ECONOMY: DR. HAMID AL-SAYEH REPORTEDLY TO TAKE PLACE OF MINECON ZAKI SHAFEI, WHO DEPARTING TO BE GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK. OUTGOING GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK MUHAMMAD ABD AL-FATTAH APPARENTLY NAMED AS ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO PRIMIN SALIM. SAYEH, WHOSE CAREER HAS BEEN LINKED WITH QAYSUNI (HE WAS QAYSUNI'S OFFICE DIRECTOR WHEN QAYSUNI DEPMINFIN IN 1954), HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF CURRENCY CONTROL OFFICE (1957), DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY IN CENTRAL MINECON (1960), UNDERSECRETARY IN ECONCOOP MINISTRY (1966), AND ASSISTANT GOVERNOR OF IBRD (1968), AND CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL BANK (1971). GAMAL EL NAZZER, PRESENTLY UNDERSECRETARY IN MINECON, AND FORMERLY CHEF DE CABINET TO SAYEH WHEN LATTER WAS HIMSELF UNDERSECRETARY, IS RUMORED TO BE SLATED FOR DEPUTY MINECON, REPLACING AHMED EL CHANDOUR.

4. MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION: DAILIES ANNOUNCE THAT SHARIF LUTFI, CURRENTLY ON LOAN TO OMANI GOVERNMENT, WOULD TAKE ON SEPARATE MINECONCOOP, BUT ARTICLES ELSEWHERE IN PAPERS STATE THAT SULTAN QABUS HAS REQUESTED GOE TO LEAVE LUTFI IN MUSCAT. MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD RIAD HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT LUTFI HAS INDEED DECLINED NOMINATION AS MINECONCOOP AND THIS RESPONSIBILITY, AS IN OUTGOING CABINET, WILL FALL TO MINECON.

5. MINISTER OF FINANCE: DR. SALAH HAMID HUSAYN REPORTEDLY WILL REPLACE AHMAD ABU ISMA'IL, WHO WILL SEEK NOMINATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AND CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE FOR BUDGET AND PLANNING. MUHAMMAD RIAD REPORTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THAT HUSAYN ALSO HAS PAST CONNECTION WITH QAYSUNI, PROBABLY AS A STUDENT, INITIALLY, ALTHOUGH THIS NOT EVIDENT FROM BIO DATA PUBLISHED IN AHRAH. HUSAYN HAS DOCTORATE IN ECONOMICS FROM UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURG, HAS BEEN DEP DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT (1972), MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (1974), AND IS CURRENTLY ON LOAN TO ABU DAHBI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT.

6. MINISTER OF WAQFS: DAILIES ANNOUNCE THAT SHAYKH MUHAMMAD MUTAWALLI SHA'ARAWI WILL REPLACE MUHAMMAD HUSAYN

AL-DHAHABI AS MINWAQFS. WAQFS MINISTRY HAS BEEN STRUCK BY SCANDAL DURING PAST YEAR AND UNDERSECRETARY FOR WAQFS AFFAIRS RESIGNED IN DISGRACE. SHAYKH SHA'ARAWI, CURRENTLY UNDERSECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF AL-AZHAR AFFAIRS, APPARENTLY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT MESS.

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT, WITHOUT BASIC CHANGES IN STRUCTURE AND HIERACHY OF ECONOMIC MINISTERIAL SECTOR, MANY CANDIDATES WIDELY RUMORED TO BE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR ASSIGNMENT TO NEW CABINET TURNED DOWN DUBIOUS HONOR WHEN APPROACHED BY SALIM. IT REMAINS UNCERTIAN HOW MUCH ADDITION OF QAYSUNI TO ECONOMIC HIERARCHY WILL DO TO ENVIGORATE ECONOMIC SECTOR, AS QAYSUNI POSITION MERELY THAT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, WHILE SALIM MAINTAINS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMY. WE HAVE REPORT QASUNI AGREED ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY ONLY IF HE MIGHT BE ALLOWED KEEP HIS TWO BANK PRESIDENT JOBS. IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW QAYSUNI, WHO REPORTEDLY NOT IN BEST OF HEALTH, WILL BE ABLE TO OVERSEE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF JUMBLE OF MINISTRIES UNDER HIS JURISDICTION.

8. ILLUSTRATION OF TEAM CONCEPT IS ADMISSION OF SAYEH, WHO HAS OFTEN BEEN TOUTED AS A MINISTER IN PRE-CABINET CHANGE RUMORS IN PAST, THAT HE IS WILLING TO CONSIDER SUCH A POST NOW, WHEN THERE IS A CHANCE TO WORK WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE. THIS ALONE, WILL BE A HELPFUL CHANGE IN EGYPT'S EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH ITS SERIOUS, AND PERHAPS CRITICAL, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
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